

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-15 and 17 are all of the pending claims, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. By virtue of this Amendment, Applicants cancel claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

I. Allowable Subject Matter:

At paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner allows claims 1-3 and 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that withdrawn claims 7-15 and 17 should be reinstated and also allowed at least by virtue of their dependency from allowed claim 1.

II. Claim Rejection On Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claim 21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over US 6,028,426 to Cameron et al. ("Cameron") in view of JP 10-170615 to Motosuke ("Motosuke"). Without acquiescing to the correctness of the Examiner's rejection position, Applicants cancel claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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